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Where basic amenities remain elusive



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Tigers ready for all conditions



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Tasnova Tamanna is here to stay



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US opposes UN bid to denounce Israeli settlements

Militants storm office of Karachi police chief

3 gunmen, 4 others killed; Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan claims responsibility

DAWN ONLINE

Militants yesterday stormed the office of the Karachi police chief in southern Pakistan, which was cleared after hours-long operation that left at least three gunmen dead.

"I can so far confirm that the Karachi Police Office (KPO) building has been cleared. Three terrorists have been neutralised," said Sindh government spokesperson Murtaza Wahab on Twitter at 10:42pm, three-and-a-half hours after the attack occurred.

Speaking to Geo News separately, he reiterated that the building had been secured. He said that the bomb disposal squad was checking if the jackets worn by the militants were rigged to detonate.

Sindh government spokesperson Murtaza Wahab also gave a breakdown of the civilian deaths during the attack, saying they included two policemen, one Rangers official and one civilian.

The outlawed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement issued by its spokesperson Mohammad Khurasani. In 2011, TTP had claimed the attack on PNS Mehran – one of the most densely populated naval bases located in Karachi.

DIG East Muqaddas Haider, who was among the senior officers leading the operation yesterday, told Dawn.com, that there were a total of three attackers who arrived at the KPO in a Toyota Corolla.

In a statement, a spokesperson for the Karachi police said all three

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Sand dredged from the Karnaphuli is piled up on the bank of the river near Chattogram's Kalurghat bridge. Contractors have been granted permission to extract sand from the river at 29 locations in Boalkhali. An official of Bangladesh Water Development Board said banks at some of those locations were already hit by erosion due to excessive extraction of sand. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

'No polls possible under AL govt'

Says BNP despite govt assurance to foreign diplomats about free, fair nat'l election

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Even though the government is assuring visiting foreign diplomats of a free and fair national election, the BNP will not take part in it with the ruling Awami League in office.

Activists of the party organised silent marches in the north and south parts of the capital to press home their 10-point demand that include holding the next national election under a non-partisan government.

BNP leaders said Bangladesh was not invited to the US democracy summit because "democracy was absent in the country".

Dhaka South BNP leaders and activists held silent marches from Motijheel to Nayabazar, while Dhaka North BNP marched from Uttara to Abdullahpur.

"This government turned the country into a failed state. They destroyed the country and its institutions. The USA did not invite Bangladesh to its Summit for Democracy. It is a matter of shame," BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam

Alamgir said at Motijheel.

He said the prime minister told visiting foreign diplomats that a free and fair election would be held under the AL government. "Neither the BNP nor the people will participate in any election held under the [current] government. The people's only demand is the resignation of the government. Resign from the office right now. Or, people will take steps."

Not long ago, the AL used to say that the BNP would not be able to launch a movement, but now it deploys guards out of fear, he said.

"Deployment of guards can't stop the movement. You [the ruling party] will not find a way to escape."

The government is using law enforcers to cling to power.

"The US imposed sanctions on Rab because it conducted extra-judicial killings at the government's behest. They are now using the police to kill the opposition leaders and activists and to repress them."

About the presidential election, he said nobody was aware of the nomination for

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US DEMOCRACY SUMMIT

Govt doesn't care about invitation

Says Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government doesn't care about who is invited to the democracy summit, Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader said yesterday.

"Sheikh Hasina doesn't bother who is invited to the democracy summit and who is not. We don't have the time to think about who is invited and where the summit is being held," he told a rally in the capital's Mohammadpur.

He further said that democracy in the country means "whether we are practising democracy, whether democratic elections are held, and whether the people can speak freely".

Bangladesh has not been invited to the US Summit for Democracy for the second time. The event will be held in March.

Speaking at a "peace rally" organised by the Dhaka North AL, he said the BNP neither has the support

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PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Focus to shift from lowest offer in tender

IMF-approved policy paper to be adopted by September

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government is poised to adopt a set of guidelines that will fundamentally change the way 40 percent of the annual budget is spent, focusing on the whole life cycle cost of goods and services rather than the lowest tender offer in public procurement.

"Whilst existing procurement framework and practices are pursued to choose the 'lowest-cost' contract with some 'quality' check, lowest-cost purchase does not necessarily ensure maximum benefit in the long run," said a policy paper.

The reason being there are additional expenditures involved during the lifetime of the product in maintenance and then for the disposal of the product once its functionality expires.

So in many cases, the lowest offer in a tender does not end up being the cheapest in the long run. Besides, the costs to the environment are also not factored in.

Subsequently, the planning ministry, the Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) and the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) have prepared the Sustainable Public Procurement Policy paper.

The policy paper has been prepared to ensure that the \$25 billion that Bangladesh spends annually on public procurement "achieves value for money on a whole life basis in terms of generating benefits not only to the organisation but also to society and the economy whilst minimising damage to the environment".

The International Monetary Fund has marked it down as a top

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- IMF stipulated policy and action plan adoption by September
- Whole lifecycle cost will be factored in
- 10% more can be paid for environment-friendly products and services
- SMEs and women enterprises to get preference
- Monitoring to ensure sustainability standards

ROHINGYA REFUGEES

UN plans to cut food aid due to fund shortfall

REUTERS, Bangkok

The United Nations plans to slash food aid to Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, blaming a funding shortfall for cuts that agencies warn would deepen food insecurity and malnutrition in the world's largest refugee settlement.

About 730,000 Rohingyas, a persecuted mostly Muslim minority from Myanmar's Rakhine state, fled to Bangladesh in 2017 to escape an army crackdown the UN said was carried out with genocidal intent. Including others who left in prior waves, nearly one million live in huts made of bamboo and plastic sheets.

The World Food Program (WFP) said it would reduce the value of its food assistance to \$10 per person from \$12 starting next month. Donor budgets have been stretched by the pandemic,

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A silent march of BNP activists in the capital's Gopibagh area yesterday afternoon. Dhaka city (south) unit organised it to realise the party's 10-point demand that include holding the next national election under a non-partisan government.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

'Will continue to report without fear or favour'

Says BBC after India's tax dept ends search; authorities flag 'several discrepancies'

STAR REPORT

As India's income tax department concluded its three-day "survey" at BBC offices in Delhi and Mumbai on Thursday night, the international broadcaster said it would continue to report "without fear or favour".

"The income tax authorities have left our offices in Delhi and Mumbai. We will continue to cooperate with the authorities and hope matters are resolved as soon as possible," the BBC said in a Twitter post, adding that it will "continue to report without fear of favour".

It further said that some of its staff have "faced lengthy questioning" and had to "stay overnight".

The "survey" operation had begun at the BBC offices around 11:30am on Tuesday and ended just after 10:00pm on Thursday.

Tax authorities have made an inventory of the available stock, recorded the statement of some staffers and taken away some documents as part of the survey relating to the BBC's international taxation and transfer of profits.

According to the sources, as reported by NDTV, mobile phones of BBC's senior employees have been cloned and several desktops and laptops have been scanned during the operation. The laptops and phones were later handed back to the officials.

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